Woman public prosecuters

1155. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Law Commission has recommended Government to appoint sufficient number of women public prosecuters to deal with the cases involving women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the recommendations are contained in Chapter XXII of the 154th Report of the Law Commission laid on the Table of the House on 20.12.1996.

(c) The report is under examination of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Plight of Judicial system in the country

1156. SHRI O.P. KHOLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our judicial system is plagued by high cost of litigation, high number of pending cases and far too many adjournments; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Data on pendency of cases, monitored on a regular basis, show a rise in pendency of cases over time. Cost of litigation and adjournments are not monitored.

(b) To address these and related issues, a meeting of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices was held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The resolutions adopted in this Conference have been commended to all the State Governments/ UT Administrations and High Courts for necessary follow-up action. In addition, a centrally sponsored scheme has been introduced for providing infrastructural facilities for the judiciary. Further, the Lok Adalat, as a method of alternative dispute resolution, is being popularised.

Lok Adalats in Maharashtra

1157. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 has not been extended to the State of Maharashtra resulting in non holding of Lok Adalats at the State, district and Taluk level in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with the State Government of Maharashtra in this regard;

(d) if so, the reaction of the State Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to popularise Lok Adalats in Maharashtra to reduce pending cases in various courts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a), (b) and (c) The provisions of Chapter III of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 have not yet been extended to the State of Maharashtra since the State Legal Services Authority Rules have not yet been finalised by the State Government. But the Lok Adalats are being organised in the State of Maharashtra. During the year 1996-97, 680 Lok Adalats in various Districts were held where 28,047 cases were settled and compensation of Rs. 31,63,57,077/- has been paid.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The State Legal Services Authority Rules are yet to be finalised by the Government of Maharashtra despite demi-official letters written by the Ministers of State for Law & Justice, Hon'ble Executive Chairman, erstwhile Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes and Hon'ble Chief Justice of India in his capacity as Patron-in-Chief, National Legal Services Authority.